

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Ellsworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Larkin, Arthur, House	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 29, One-fourth mile south of Ellsworth T 15 S, R 8 W			
CITY OR TOWN: Ellsworth		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 1, Keith Sebelius	
STATE Kansas	CODE 67439	COUNTY: Ellsworth	CODE 053

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Loren Dees			
STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route			
CITY OR TOWN: Ellsworth	STATE: Kansas	CODE 67439	CODE 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Ellsworth County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Ellsworth	STATE: Kansas	CODE 67439	CODE 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka	STATE: Kansas	CODE 66612	CODE 20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Ellsworth	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arthur Larkin house is located in a rural environment about one-fourth mile south of Ellsworth. It is a large basically rectangular two-story structure with a full basement and an attic. The Renaissance-style house faces north and measures approximately 65 feet long, 50 feet wide and 35 feet from grade to the roof peak. A cupola originally located at the north entry of the building rose an additional story.

The exterior walls are of native limestone cut into large rectilinear blocks. These blocks are dressed and laid in uniform horizontal courses. Projecting stone quoins accent each corner and provide a decorative touch to the facades. A horizontal belt course at the first floor line with a patent hammer finish and chiseled margins separates the upper stone work from the less sophisticated masonry of the foundation walls.

The roof form is essentially a hip with gable ends over wall offsets on the east, north and west sides. The roof is covered with wood shingles and overhangs the walls. The cornice is a broad curvilinear design rising gracefully above the stone. The gables are constructed of stone to match the walls and each contains a decorative window treatment, each unique in design. The north gable window has a rounded stone arch and decorative trim at the sides. The east gable contains two windows of the same design. The west gable window is in the palladian motif. The arched center window is flanked by two windows with flat lintels. Except for the basement half windows, the rest of the windows are long rectangles with pediment lintels, each carved with an intricate design. Carved stone roping and anchors flank each window on the first and second floors. Basement and attic windows are flanked by carved stone arrows or harpoons. These ornamental details give an elegant quality to the otherwise straightforward design.

Two large bay windows of frame construction on the east and north facades relieve the rectangularity of the building. Decorative cornices and articulated columns on the bays further accent their importance.

The present exterior appearance is nearly the same as the original. The cupola and the front porch have been removed, and an addition has been tacked on to the rear.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884-1885

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Western Settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arthur Larkin house, located just south of Ellsworth, was built in 1884-1885 for one of the area's pioneer businessmen.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1832, Larkin came to New York in 1848. After serving in the Texas Rangers and the regular army, he was discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for medical reasons around 1861. He then opened a restaurant in Leavenworth and also operated a freighting line between that point and Denver. In 1866 he moved to Junction City where he operated the same type of businesses. In the spring of 1867 he moved to the town of Ellsworth, which had just been established. The Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division, was at that time just a short distance from Ellsworth, and by mid-year the town had railroad service.

Larkin built and opened the town's first hotel in the fall of 1867, and in 1868 he opened a mercantile business. His first hotel burned in 1869 and he built the White House in 1872 and operated it until 1905. He constructed another hotel known as the American House in 1878.

In addition to his hotels and thriving business, he was a partner in the erection of Ellsworth's first flour mill and first elevator. He also owned a number of farms and raised horses and Hereford cattle. In the 1870's he was probably the wealthiest man in the community. Although primarily a businessman, he did participate in local politics, serving one term as county commissioner and another as county treasurer.

One of his farms consisted of 200 acres south of the Smoky Hill river, just south of the Ellsworth city limits. On May 1, 1884, the Ellsworth Reporter told its readers that "A. Larkin is completing his residence on the south side of the river. When finished it will be the most handsome residence in the vicinity." In April, 1885, he went East to obtain furnishings for the house, and by May, 1885, the family had moved into their new home.

The decorative stonework around the doors and windows was said to have been imported from England at a cost of \$12,000.

Larkin's house contained some features which were ahead of their time, at least for that part of the country. Natural gas wells on the property provided heat and light for the house. Larkin placed a gas burner in the cupola of the house, and the huge reflector behind the flame provided a glow which could be seen for miles.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

8.

The house was for many years a focal point of the community's social activities, and the Larkins were noted for their elegant parties.

Arthur Larkin was one of the leading figures of Ellsworth for more than 30 years and one of those responsible for the town's early economic growth and continuing prosperity. Because of his contributions to his community, his house merits National Register listing. Architecturally, the house is significant for the wealth of stone detailing it possesses.

9.

Ellsworth Reporter, May 1, 1884; May 7, 1885; April 9, 1885;

July 10, 1947; September 14, 1972.-

Salina Journal, February 17, 1974.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical History of Central Kansas, Vol. II (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1902), pp. 791, 792.
 Connelley, W. E., A History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 99, 100.
 Dykstra, Robert, "Ellsworth, 1869-1875: The Rise and Fall of a Kansas Cowtown," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 27, no. 2 (Summer, 1969), pp. 161-192.
Ellsworth News, May 7, 1884.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 . "	0 . "	0	.	.
NE	0 . "	0 . "	38	43	20
SE	0 . "	0 . "	98	14	13
SW	0 . "	0 . "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey		
ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society	DATE May 3, 1974	
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth		
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka	STATE Kansas 66612	CODE 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State
Historical Society

Date November 25, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

(BLACK WOLF)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

